



Thomas L. Salvatore Jr.

May 23, 1959 - August 22, 2023

Thomas Salvatore, a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and longtime resident of Bonita Springs, Florida, died unexpectedly on August 22,, 2023 at the age of 64. Deeply loved and cherished by his family, Tom is survived by his wife, Deborah Lynn Grippo Salvatore; their sons, Thomas Matthew Salvatore and Anthony Michael Grippo; Tom's mother, Amelia Salvatore; brother Christian Salvatore and nephews Stephen and Michael Salvatore.

Tom was born May 23, 1959, in Abington, Pennsylvania. As the eldest of three boys growing up in tough neighborhoods in Philadelphia, he was the defender of his younger siblings whenever they were bullied. He detested bullies and anyone, whether on the streets or in the political arena, who exploited the vulnerabilities of others.

In high school Tom ran track for the Roman Catholic High School in Center City, Philadelphia, where they practiced on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway and ran up the front steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Unlike Sly Stallone in the movie "Rocky," however, Tom and his teammates had to run up the stairs sideways.

Tom earned an associate degree from the American Institute of Drafting in 1981 and worked professionally as a draftsman in the electronics manufacturing industry, working his way up to executive-level roles providing

oversight of production planning and materials management.

Tom was a star player for the Wolfpack, a men's hockey team, and introduced his son Tommy to hockey by coaching for the Rink Rats in a youth hockey league in the Northeast Philadelphia. He was an avid Phillies sports fan, closely following the Eagles, Phillies and Flyers. He once said that if he could be reincarnated as a sports figure, he would return as Hall of Fame center and two-time Stanley Cup winner Bobby Clark, because Clark made the most impossible shots to score goals.

Like the wolf, Tom's priority was his family. He spent every available moment with his wife and sons, eschewing the proverbial rat race in order to be fully present whenever family members needed him. He offered his good counsel to his sons whenever they faced difficult choices or decisions and cared diligently for his mother after the death of his father.

His home was truly his castle. Tom was a skilled craftsman who renovated several homes, installing drywall, trim, kitchens and bathrooms by himself. He loved traditional Italian family dinners served nightly by his wife Debbie and enjoyed decorating the house for Christmas each year.

He also loved to travel and made numerous family trips to Italy, enjoying the Abruzzo region where his great grandfather was born, and the Dolomites, where he drove the Passo dello Stelvio, a mountain pass in the region bordering Switzerland. In the towns along the route, he was able to learn more about his combined German-Italian heritage.

Tom loved history, visiting many historical sites in both the U.S. and Europe. In Verona Italy he listened enraptured to an opera performed in a Roman amphitheater built in 30 AD. His favorite monument in Paris was the Sainte-Chappelle, built in the 12th century to house relics from the passion of Christ.

Visitation and viewing hours are Friday, August 25th from 4:00-7:00 PM at Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home, 28300 Tamiami Trail South, Bonita Springs. A funeral mass celebrating Tom's life will take place Saturday, August 26th at 11:00 AM at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 9801 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs, FL.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **25**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home
28300 Tamiami Trail So.
Bonita Springs, FL 34134
(239) 992-4982
bonitafhbill@comcast.net

Holy Requiem Eucharist

AUG **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
9801 Bonita Beach Rd SE
Bonita Springs, FL 34135
(239) 992-4343

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas L. Salvatore Jr.*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *Dear Deb, Tommy, Anthony, and the Salvatore Family,*

Sean and I can only send our heartfelt condolences and prayers to you with a wish that God can find a way to ease your pain at so grievous a loss. He was a kind soul, with a friendly smile, that we can now only wish we'd seen more of while he was here. We send our love and prayers to you.

Loretta and Sean - August 28, 2023 at 08:07 PM



Dear Deb and Anthony and family I am so sorry to hear the lost of Tom my heart goes out to you all. I am so deeply sorry about Tom. He was not only handsome. He was very intelligent, hard worker, and a good man. He will be missed by all of my family. He is already upstairs getting everything in order because that's the kind of a guy he is. Debbie, I hope you're doing well. I'm really really sorry you know you had a wonderful man and he's looking down and smiling and telling you don't be sad. Go on and live because I love you.

Ann Grippo - June 09, 2024 at 07:09 PM



“ *I was saddened to hear the passing of Tom. I remember his family moving into the neighborhood, his dad's haircutting business. Tom was one of the best street and ice hockey players in our area. Tom played Simon and Garfunkel's Greatest hits, which became the first album I owned. I also loved viewing his photo's from Italy when he posted them on social media. RIP my friend.*

Bob Panunto - August 26, 2023 at 04:09 PM